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**MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT MAKES IT EASIER FOR WORKERS
TO GET EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS SERVICES**
Working For A Better Ontario

NORTH BAY — The McGuinty government is making it easier for workers to get information on their rights under the Employment Standards Act and access services to protect their rights, Labour Minister Steve Peters announced today.

“Workers can now get information and services when, where and how they need them across the province,” said Peters at the ServiceOntario Centre in North Bay. “These are the latest of many fundamental changes in the way government services are designed and delivered to ensure the people get a government that works.”

Workers can now obtain and submit employment standards claims at ServiceOntario Centres across the province. Access through 63 ServiceOntario Centres will make it much easier for the public to get services closer to home than at the 21 Ministry of Labour locations. A selection of Employment Standards information material is available at ServiceOntario Centres and workers can access all Employment Standards online publications through provided computer terminals at ServiceOntario Centres.

Peters also announced:

- A new Self Help Kit empowers workers to help resolve their employment standards concerns with their employer without the need to file a claim
- Workers can now file employment standards claims online 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the ministry’s website: <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/es/claim/index.html>
- A simplified claim form and guide that is easier for employees to understand and complete, which can be downloaded from the ministry’s website
- A Provincial Claims Centre in Sault Ste. Marie to help manage employment standards claims across the province.

The government provides employment standards information in 23 different languages.

"People in Northern Ontario can now choose from 32 ServiceOntario locations across the North, including here in North Bay," said Monique Smith, MPP for Nipissing. "By making it easier, for both employees and employers to access information and government services, the McGuinty government is helping build stronger northern communities."

A complete list of ServiceOntario Centres is available on the Ministry's website and on the Workplace Gateway website at: www.serviceontario.ca/workplacegateway, or by calling the employment standards information centre at 416-326-7160 or, toll free, at 1-800-531-5551 from anywhere in Canada. Workers can also fax their claim forms directly to our Provincial Claims Centre in Sault Ste. Marie at 1-888-252-4684, or mail them to 70 Foster Dr, Ste. 480, Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6V4.

“ServiceOntario makes it easier and more convenient to access a wide range of government services and information online, in person and on the phone.” said Peters. “Together, we are helping workers to know their rights and obligations under the law.”

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